

When the disease is occasioned by worms, they must be destroyed, or expelled, by such means as are recommended in the following section.

When the stomach is greatly relaxed, and the digestion bad, which often occasion flatulencies, the elixir of vitriol will be of singular service. Fifteen or twenty drops of it may be taken in a glass of wine or water twice or thrice a-day.

Persons afflicted with flatulency are generally unhappy unless they be taking some purgative medicines; these, though they may give immediate ease, tend to weaken and relax the stomach and bowels, and consequently increase the disorder. The best method is to mix purgatives and stomachics together. Equal parts of Peruvian bark and rhubarb may be infused in brandy or wine, and taken in such quantity as to keep the body gently open.

In heartburn, water-brash, &c. the oxide of bismuth is a remedy which has been employed in a variety of cases with considerable advantage. The proper dose is from three to ten grains, with about twenty-five grains of gum-tragacanth, repeated three times a-day. It will be safer, however, to commence with only about three grains, and increase it gradually.

Pain of the stomach proceeds from such a variety of causes, that it is difficult to prescribe a medicine for it. The treatment must of course be suited to the nature of the complaint. But I have for some years very generally recommended a plaster, which seldom fails to give relief. Its basis may be any kind of adhesive plaster spread upon leather, to which, while warm, a drachm and a half, or two drachms, of powdered opium may be added. It should be large enough to cover nearly the whole region of the stomach, and should be suffered to remain on as long as it will stick.\*

## CHAP. XXVII.

### WORMS. (*Vermes.*)

THESE are chiefly of three kinds, viz. the *tania*, or tape-worm; the *teres*, or round and long worm; and the *ascarides*, or round and short worm. There are many other kinds of worms found in the human body; but as they proceed, in a great measure, from similar causes, have nearly the same symptoms, and require almost the same method of treatment as these already mentioned, we shall not spend time in enumerating them.

The tape-worm is white, very long, and full of joints. It is generally bred either in the stomach or small intestines. The round and long worm is likewise bred in the small guts, and sometimes in the stomach. The round and short worms commonly lodge in the *rectum*, or what is called the end gut, and occasion a disagreeable itching about the seat.

The long round worms occasion squeamishness, vomiting, a dis-

\* Pain of the stomach is frequently relieved by drinking a cup or two of water as hot as it can be swallowed. This remedy is always safe, and will frequently be found effectual. ED.

agreeable breath, gripes, looseness, swelling of the belly, swoonings, loathing of food, and at other times a voracious appetite, a dry cough, convulsions, epileptic fits, and sometimes a privation of speech. These worms have been known to perforate the intestines, and get into the cavity of the belly. The effects of the tape-worm are nearly the same with those of the long and round, but rather more violent.

Andry says, the following symptoms particularly attend the *solium*, which is a species of the tape-worm, viz. swoonings, privation of speech, and a voracious appetite. The round worms called *ascarides*, besides an itching of the anus, cause swoonings, and tenesmus, or an inclination to go to stool.

CAUSES.—Worms may proceed from various causes; but they are seldom found except in weak and relaxed stomachs, where the digestion is bad. Sedentary persons are more liable to them than the active and laborious. Those who eat great quantities of unripe fruit, or who live much on raw herbs and roots, are generally subject to worms. There seems to be an hereditary disposition in some persons to this disease. I have often seen all the children of a family subject to worms of a particular kind. They seem likewise frequently to be owing to the nurse. Children of the same family nursed by one woman have often worms, when those nursed by another have none.

SYMPTOMS.—The common symptoms of worms are, paleness of the countenance, and, at other times, an universal flushing of the face; itching of the nose (this, however, is doubtful, as children pick their noses in all diseases;) starting, and grinding of the teeth in sleep; swelling of the upper lip; the appetite sometimes bad, at other times quite voracious; looseness; a sour or stinking breath; a hard swelled belly; great thirst; the urine frothy, and sometimes of a whitish colour; griping, or colic pains; an involuntary discharge of saliva, especially when asleep; frequent pains of the side, with a dry cough, and unequal pulse; palpitations of the heart; swoonings, drowsiness, cold sweats, palsy, epileptic fits, with many other unaccountable nervous symptoms, which were formerly attributed to witchcraft, or the influence of evil spirits. Small bodies in the excrements resembling melon or cucumber-seeds are symptoms of the tape-worm. There is no certain symptom of worms but passing them.

I lately saw some very surprising effects of worms in a girl about five years of age, who used to lie for whole hours as if dead. She at last expired, and upon opening her body, a number of the *teres*, or long round worms, were found in her intestines, which were considerably inflamed; and what anatomists call an *intus-susceptio*, or the involving of one part of the gut within another, had taken place in no less than four different parts of the intestinal canal.\*

\* That worms exist in the human body there can be no doubt, and that they must sometimes be considered as a disease, is equally certain; but this is not the case so often as people imagine. The idea that worms occasion many diseases, gives an opportunity to the professed worm-doctors of imposing on the credulity of mankind, and

**MEDICINE.**—Though numberless medicines are extolled for expelling and killing worms,\* yet no disease more frequently baffles the physician's skill. In general, the most proper medicines for their expulsion are strong purgatives, and, to prevent their breeding, stomachic bitters, and now and then a glass of good wine.

The best purge for an adult is jalap and calomel. Five-and-twenty or thirty grains of the former, with six or seven of the latter, mixed in syrup, may be taken early in the morning for a dose. It will be proper that the patient keep the house all day, and drink nothing cold. The dose may be repeated once or twice a-week, for a fortnight or three weeks. On the intermediate days the patient may take a drachm of the filings of tin, twice or thrice a-day, mixed with syrup, honey, or treacle.

Those who do not choose to take calomel, may make use of the bitter purgatives; as aloes,† tincture of senna and rhubarb, &c.

Oily medicines are sometimes found beneficial for expelling worms. An ounce of salad oil and a table-spoonful of common salt may be taken in a glass of red port wine thrice a day, or oftener if the stomach will bear it; but the more common form of using oil is in clysters. Oily clysters, sweetened with sugar or honey, are very efficacious in bringing away the short round worms called *ascarides*,‡ and likewise the *teres*.

The Harrowgate water is an excellent medicine for expelling worms, especially the *ascarides*. As this water is impregnated with sulphur, we may hence infer, that sulphur alone must be a good medicine in this case, which is found to be a fact. Many practitioners give flour of sulphur in very large doses, and with great success. It should be made into an electuary with honey or treacle, and taken in such quantity as to purge the patient.

Where Harrowgate water cannot be obtained, sea-water may be used, which is far from being a contemptible medicine in this case. If sea-water cannot be had, common salt dissolved in water may be drank. I have often seen this used by country-nurses with very good effect. Some flour of sulphur may be taken over-night, and the salt-water in the morning.

But worms, though expelled, will soon breed again, if the stomach remain weak and relaxed; to prevent which, we would recommend the Peruvian bark. Half a drachm of bark in powder may be taken in a glass of red port wine, three or four times a-day, after the above medicines have been used. Lime-water is likewise good for this purpose, or a table-spoonful of the chalybeate wine taken twice or thrice a-day. Infusions or decoctions of bitter herbs may likewise be drank; as the infusion of tansy, water trefoil, camomile flowers, tops of wormwood, the lesser centaury, &c.

doing much mischief. They find worms in every case, and liberally throw in their antidotes, which generally consist of strong drastic purges. I have known these given in delicate constitutions, to the destruction of the patient, where there was not the least symptom of worms.

\* A medical writer of the present age has enumerated upwards of fifty British plants, all celebrated for killing and expelling worms.

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|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| † Take Powder of Common Aloes, 1 drm.    | ‡ Take Mixture of Asafetida, | 3 oz. |
| Water Gruel, thin, 10 oz.                | Milk,                        | 5 oz. |
| Make a clyster—to be given occasionally. | Make a clyster.              |       |

The above directions are intended for adults; but for children the medicines must be more agreeable, and in smaller doses. For a child of four or five years old, six grains of rhubarb, five of jalap, and two of calomel, may be mixed in a spoonful of syrup or honey, and given in the morning. The child should keep the house all day, and take nothing cold. This dose may be repeated twice a-week for three or four weeks. On the intermediate days, the child may take a scruple of powdered tin, and ten grains of æthiops mineral, in a spoonful of treacle, twice a-day. This dose must be increased or diminished, according to the age of the patient, or the form annexed below.\*

Bisset says, the great bastard black hellebore, or *bear's foot*, is a most powerful vermifuge for the long round worms. He orders the decoction of about a drachm of the green leaves, or about fifteen grains of the dried leaves in powder, for a dose to a child between four and seven years of age. This dose is to be repeated two or three times. He adds, that the green leaves made into a syrup with coarse sugar is almost the only medicine he has used for round worms for three years past. Before pressing out the juice, he moistens the bruised leaves with vinegar, which corrects the medicine. The dose is a tea-spoonful at bed-time, and one or two next morning.

I have frequently known those big bellies, which in children are commonly reckoned a sign of worms, quite removed by giving them white soap in their pottage, or other food. Tansy, garlic, and rue, are all good against worms, and may be used various ways. We might here mention many other plants, both for external and internal use, as the cabbage-bark, &c., but think the fillings of tin with æthiops mineral, and the purges of rhubarb and calomel, are more to be depended on.

Ball's purging vermifuge powder is a very powerful medicine. It is made of equal parts of rhubarb, scammony, and calomel, with as much double-refined sugar as is equal to the weight of all the other ingredients. These must be well mixed together, and reduced to a fine powder. The dose for a child is from ten grains to twenty, once or twice a-week. An adult may take a drachm for a dose.

A powder for the tape-worm, resembling this, called Madame Nouffer's powder (the name of the proprietor),† was long kept a secret on the Continent: it was lately purchased by the French king.

Parents who would preserve their children from worms ought to allow them plenty of exercise in the open air; to take care that their food be wholesome and sufficiently solid; and, as far as possible, to prevent their eating raw herbs, roots, or green trashy fruits. It will not be amiss to allow a child who is subject to

\* Take Powdered Tin, 3 ounces.  
Confection of Hips, 3 drachms.  
Simple Syrup, enough to make an electuary dose of the size of a nutmeg, in the morning.

† Take Male Fern Root, in Powder.  
2 to 3 drms.

Mint Water, 4 ounces.  
To be taken fasting in the morning, and two hours after, the following bolus:  
Take Submuriate of Mercury, 5 or 6 grs.  
Cambooge, in Powder, 6 to 10 grs.  
Drinking often a cupful of the infusion of green tea.

worms a glass of red wine after meals ; as every thing that braces and strengthens the stomach is good both for preventing and expelling these vermin.\*

In order to prevent any mistake of what I have here said in favour of *solid* food, it may be proper to observe, that I only made use of that word in opposition to *slops* of every kind ; not to advise parents to cram their children with meat, two or three times a-day. This should only be allowed at dinner, and in moderate quantities, or it would create, instead of preventing worms ; for there is no substance in nature which generates so many worms as the *flesh* of animals, when in a state of putrefaction. Meat, therefore, at the principal meal, should always be accompanied with plenty of good bread, and young, tender, and well-boiled vegetables, especially in the spring, when these are poured forth from the bosom of the earth in *such profusion*. They promote the end in view, by keeping the body moderately open, without the aid of artificial physic. The ripe fruits of autumn produce the same effect ; and, from their cooling, antiputrescent qualities, are as wholesome as the unripe are pernicious.

I also very earnestly conjure parents not to take the alarm at every imaginary symptom of worms, and directly run for drugs to the quack, or apothecary. They should first try the good effects of proper diet and regimen, and never have recourse to medicines till after unequivocal proofs of the nature of the complaint. The danger of advertised nostrums is sufficiently pointed out and exemplified in the preceding note.

## CHAP. XXVIII.

### JAUNDICE. (*Icterus*.)

THIS disease is first observable in the white of the eye, which appears yellow. Afterwards the whole skin puts on a yellow appearance. The urine too is of a saffron hue, and dyes a white cloth, if put into it, of the same colour. There is likewise a species of this disease called the Black Jaundice.

CAUSES.—The immediate cause of the jaundice is an obstruction of the bile, from biliary calculi in the gall-bladder and its ducts ; inspissated bile ; spasmodic constriction of the ducts themselves ; pressing from adjacent tumours ; scirrhus of the liver, &c. The remote or occasional causes are, the bites of poisonous animals, as the viper, mad dog, &c. ; the bilious or hysteric colic ; violent passions, as grief, anger, &c. Strong purges or vomits will likewise occasion the jaundice. Sometimes it proceeds from obstin-

\* We think it necessary here to warn people of their danger who buy cakes, powders, and other worm medicines, at random, from quacks, and give them to their children without proper care. The principal ingredients in most of these medicines is mercury, which is never to be trifled with. I lately saw a shocking instance of the danger of this conduct. A girl who had taken a dose of worm-powder, bought of a travelling quack, went out, and perhaps was so imprudent as to drink cold water during its operation : she immediately swelled, and died on the following day, with all the symptoms of having been poisoned.